

Patent Claims

- 5 1. A method for handling an information item (10) which originates from an information provider, is made available by a service provider and can be called via a communications network, comprising the following method steps:
- 10 a) an ident code (15) which identifies the information item (10) is allocated to the information provider by the service provider, and
- 15 b) the information item (10) is deleted if the ident code (15) is not transmitted, to the same provider by the information provider.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the ident code (15) is transmitted, together with a
- 20 handling instruction (20, 30, 40) relating to the information item, to the service provider by the information provider.
- 25 3. The method as claimed in claim 2, in which, during the transmission of the ident code (15), together with a handling instruction (20, 30, 40), by the information provider, the service provider handles the information item (10) in accordance with the handling instruction (20, 30, 40).
- 30 4. The method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, in which the handling instruction comprises changing the information item (30), retaining the information item (20) or deleting the information item (40).
- 35 5. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, in which the monitoring period can be predetermined.
6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, in

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which the monitoring period takes place automatically.

- 5 7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, in which the communications network (5) is the Internet.
- 10 8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, in which the ident code (15) is transmitted to the information provider by e-mail.
- 15 9. The method as claimed in one of claims 2 to 8, in which the ident code (15) is transmitted, together with the handling instruction (20, 30, 40) relating to the information item, to the service provider by e-mail.
- 20 10. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, in which the information item (10) made available has at least the last update date of the information (10).

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